

Message Text

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43

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 STR-08 DODE-00 EB-11 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 RSR-01 AGR-20

LAB-06 CIEP-02 OMB-01 INT-08 GSA-01 OEP-01 /093 W

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R 290502 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4907

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E. O. 11652: N / A

TAGS: EIMD EMIN ETRD JA

SUBJ: ALUMINUM SCRAP

REF STATE 122138

SUMMARY: INFORMATION REQUESTED IN REFTEL UNAVAILABLE EXCEPT BY
DIRECT REQUEST TO GOJ AND/ OR INDUSTRY, WHICH MAY TRIGGER
SPECULATIVE BUYING. END SUMMARY.

1. THE EMBASSY HAS RECENTLY MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO GOJ THAT
JAPAN LIMIT OR REGULARIZE IMPORTS OF LUMBER, HIDES AND FERROUS
SCRAP. JAPANESE GOVERNMENTAL AND NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL ATTENTION
HAS FOCUSED WITH SOME CONCERN ON PRESIDENT' S RECENT SPEECH
INDICATING POSSIBLE US EXPORT CONTROLS OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS,
AND EMBARGO ON SOY BEANS AND COTTONSEED HAS NOW GREATLY
INCREASED
UNEASE. APPROACH TO GOJ, WHICH WOULD APPROACH INDUSTRY,
FOR INFORMATION ON ALUMINUM SCRAP CERTAIN TO BE INTERPRETED AS
PRELUDE TO EITHER POSSIBLE EXPORT CONTROLS OR REQUEST FOR
SELF- RESTRAINT AND COULD WELL LEAD TO WAVE OF SPECULATIVE BUYING.

2. " TEKKO SHINBUN", AUTHORITATIVE METALS NEWSPAPER, ON
JUNE 26 HAS ALREADY REPORTED THAT THE JAPANESE SECONDARY

ALUMINUM REFINING INDUSTRY IS CONCERNED ABOUT A US MOVEMENT TO
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RESTRICT EXPORTS FROM THE US OF ALUMINUM SCRAP. AN INTRA-INDUSTRY MEETING THIS WEEK WILL DISCUSS THIS FURTHER. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THE JAPANESE INDUSTRY ANTICIPATES THAT THE US WILL NOT STOP THE EXPORT OF ALUMINUM SCRAP COMPLETELY AND THAT AN EXPORT QUOTA SYSTEM MIGHT BE EMPLOYED FROM JULY.

3. AS OF JUNE 20, 1973, THE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY HAD PUBLISHED THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS ON ALUMINUM SCRAP IN METRIC TONS, INCLUDING ALUMINUM ALLOYS AS FOLLOWS:

	1970	1971	1972	'-, - APR 1973
TOTAL CONSUMPTION	804,290	821,662	928,531	-
DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION	804,065	821,392	928,381	-
EXPORTS	228	270	150	-
TOTAL SUPPLIES	826,860	845,560	1,302,772	-
RETURN SCRAP	534,488	565,433	644,460	-
MARKET SCRAP	255,613	245,096	262,571	-
IMPORTED SCRAP	10,832	12,452	37,277	9,306
(FROM U. S.)	4,666	4,550	24,232	6,357

4. SPECIFIC ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. NO RELIABLE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON NEEDS EXCEPT THAT STRAIGHT-LINE PROJECTION OF FIRST QUARTER'S PURCHASES INDICATE ABOUT SAME LEVEL AS 1972.

B. RECENT PATTERNS INDICATE ABOUT 65 PERCENT OF IMPORTS COME FROM U. S.

C. PRESENTLY NO CONTROLS IN EFFECT.

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D. EMBASSY NOT AWARE OF ANY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO CONTROL PRICES OF ALUMINUM SCRAP. PRODUCERS' SELLING PRICE OF PRIMARY ALUMINUM IS EXPECTED TO BE RAISED BY 20,000 YEN (THE PRESENT PRICE IS ABOUT 185,000 YEN TO 195,000 YEN PER METRIC TON), AND THE PRICE OF ALUMINUM SCRAP IS EXPECTED TO RISE AS A CONSEQUENCE ACCORDING TO

THE JUNE 26 TH " NIKKAN KINOZOKU TOKUHO", A TRADE JOURNAL ON METALS.

E. FIGURES FOR THE 2 S 3 S CLASSIFICATION ARE NOT AVAILABLE BUT TOKYO WHOLESALE PRICES OF NEW, SASHES, AND MACHINE PARTS CASTING SCRAP ACCORDING TO " TEKKO SHINBUN" IS:

NEW SCRAP 128,000 YEN (483 DOLLARS) (\$1 EQUALS 265 YEN)

SASHES SCRAP 125,000 YEN (473 DOLLARS)

MACHINE PARTS 113,000 YEN (426 DOLLARS)

CASTING SCRAP

INGERSOLL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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